



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jim Dotson
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for August 2018

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Dotson:

Per Section 42 of Act 841 of the 2017 Regular Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for August 2018.

AFC is pleased to report that in August, its Rural Fire Program (RFP) has delivered 67 Wildfire Suppression Kits to Fire Departments across the state. These kits contain two backpack leaf blowers, two collapsible backpack water pumps, six leaf rakes and ten sets of personal protective equipment. These kits provide fire departments with more tools to suppress wildland fires.

Since January, our RFP (servicing 871 fire departments) has provided 21 Freightliners (for conversion into tankers), 14 brush trucks, seven service trucks, one fire boat, one fire truck and 13 generators to fire departments across the state through a Department of Defense/US Forest Service excess property program. These assets are valued at \$4,611,048.00 and are provided to fire departments throughout Arkansas to protect Arkansans and Arkansas' forests.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION



Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

August 2018 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During August a total of 54 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 670 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of August is 145 wildfires for 2070 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC personnel assisted in a search for a missing elderly man in the Mountain View area in Stone County. A Silver Alert was activated on him. An AFC Law Enforcement supervisor and three AFC rangers assisted in the search one day, then five AFC rangers helped with the search the second day. The man was found safe.

Storm Damage Assistance: An AFC county forester and two AFC rangers helped clear roads using chainsaws around the city of Tuckerman in Jackson County.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists fire departments (FDs) with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans, secures firefighting and emergency services equipment from the federal government, and administers a federal grant to assist approximately 1,000 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FD's and repairs AFC equipment.

August 2018

- 100-fire departments, (119 firefighters), were provided wildland fire training, five minority departments and five AFC/AAD personnel in attendance.
- RFP received three Freightliners (valued at \$498,669.00).
- There were five Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles issued to FDs including three Freightliners (valued at \$430,557.00) and two brush trucks (valued at \$246,758.00). There was one Caterpillar grader (valued at \$94,370.00) from DOD issued to AFC Poison Springs State Forest
- 825 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to FDs (valued at \$140,152.11) to include tool kits, tool boxes, hand tools, spine boards, bandage scissors, traction splints, flashlights, marker lights and power cable assemblies.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on nine AFC vehicles and equipment as well as five DOD Freightliners, two generators and one tank installation for a FD.
- RFP provided three interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:

- County Line \$14,663.01 2,200 gallon Poly tank Bradly/Cleveland Co. D-1
 - Hopewell \$15,000.00 95 HME Hendricks truck White Co. D-7
 - Harmon \$9,092.31 2,000 gallon tank painted and installed, one pump & engine
Boone Co. D-6
- 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant update: All but five grant kits have been picked up or delivered.
 - 2018 Annual Rural Fire Show: We currently have 13-vendor registration packets turned in and are expecting more this month. We are still working to get donations to help pay for the luncheon and collecting door prizes for the firefighters and their families.

Firewise: Firewise staff and district personnel work with fire departments and civic organizations to make communities safer from the threat of wildfire through mitigation projects and community education initiatives. Arkansas leads the nation with 170 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **August**:

- Delivered two initial program presentations
- Delivered two Risk Assessment Training Sessions
- Assisted two communities with program paperwork
- Represented program at the Arkansas Emergency Management Conference and the Arkansas EMT Association Educational Symposium and Trade Show

Law Enforcement: AAD has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but focuses primarily on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and forestry equipment theft and vandalism. AAD aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. AAD Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened eight dumping, one fire related and nine timber theft cases. They closed seven dumping, five fire related and six timber theft cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: AFC works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forests. The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is an opportunity for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry and/or for timber production to get a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan that is prepared by private consulting or AFC foresters, private consulting or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 5,121 landowners owning 949,811 acres that have enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,239 Forest Stewards owning 280,895 acres.

For August, seven FSP plans were prepared on 792 acres. In addition, AFC personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners that are enrolled in USDA tree planting and forest management programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality

Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and AFC Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. AFC foresters prepared 216 rural forestry management plans on 11,408 acres. AFC personnel conducted six prescribed burns on 286 acres.

Urban Forestry Assistance: Urban Forestry Program staff provides assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management.

August 2018- Urban & Community Forestry

- Made a presentation to the current LeadAR leadership development class about Urban & Community Forestry in Arkansas
- Worked with the AR Urban Forestry Council to begin process of hiring a new Executive Director and developed grant agreement for the pass-through grant we provide to that organization on an annual basis
- Coordinated with Southern Group of State Foresters Urban & Community Forestry Committee to prepare three LSR grant proposals
- Assisted the AR Game & Fish Commission with an assessment of trees at their Little Rock office and provided tree care recommendations

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist assists AFC personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AFC offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

Ips Pine Engraver Beetles

Late-summer heat has caused some sporadic pine mortality in central Arkansas. Some noticeable damages have occurred around Lake Hamilton. Ips pine engraver beetles appear to be the biggest concern in this area. The damage is not yet categorized as an outbreak since mortality is sparse across the landscape and localized infestations are no more than a few trees. It will however be watched closely in the approaching months.

Laurel Wilt of Sassafras

The Forest Health Specialist established laurel wilt monitoring plots in southern Arkansas. In these sites, a study will be conducted to observe the effects of laurel wilt in sassafras trees over the next several years. It should provide us with knowledge of the behavior of this new invasive disease in Arkansas. The disease is now confirmed in seven counties.

Aerial Survey for Insects and Disease

The Forest Health Specialist flew over several counties in southern and central Arkansas to monitor for insect and disease disturbances. No serious issues were recorded. During each flight, the Forest Health Specialist trained various AFC personnel on aerial survey techniques.

Reforestation: AFC's tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method AFC employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. AFC Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Seedling sales began on July 15, through August 31, there were 231 online orders and 60 traditional orders. Total sales of 420,075 pine and 6,289,995 hardwood. Comparatively, in the same period in FY 18, there were 228 online orders and 84 traditional orders. Total sales of 737,125 pine and 4,695,697 hardwood.

Baucum Nursery staff completed the following during the month of August

- Made two fertilizer applications of urea in fields 3, 4, 7, and 8
- Sprayed Roundup and GoalTender herbicides with shielded sprayer on all hardwoods
- Sprayed Roundup around all fields and turn rows
- Sprayed Poast and GoalTender over top of all pine
- Sprayed Outrider and Poast over top of hardwood in fields 2 and 3
- Wrightsville Unit for Department of Corrections spent two days pulling weeds in fields 3 and 7
- Benton Unit for Department of Corrections spent five days pulling weeds in fields 4 and 2
- Irrigated all crops as needed.
- Used a system of mopping over the top of seedlings to kill weeds that are above seeding height. This mixture of 1-part Roundup, 1-part crop oil and .25 parts water, is applied with a specialized device that pumps this high concentration of herbicide into a four-foot-wide mop. The mop is raised and lowered based the height of the crop in order to avoid contact with leaves of tree seedlings.
- Used tractor implement to rake weeds out of beds
- Top pruned all crops as needed
- Moved mulch from storage pile to fields 5 and 8 and spread across the fields
- Disc and Do-All in field 5 and 8 in preparation for methyl bromide application
- Bush-hogged around fields

Tree Improvement:

During the month of August, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Bush-hogged all orchards (production and breeding)
- Fertilized all production orchards as recommended by coop
- Fertilized breeding orchards 1720 & 1721 with urea and triple 13 as recommended by coop
- Took fence down at Nashville progeny test at the request of the landowner
- Ripped and disked Hope test site
- Band sprayed in production orchards with herbicides to cut down on bush hogging
- Weeded pots and greenhouses
- Bush-hogged and sprayed Rosston test site
- Bush-hogged and sprayed block plots at the old shortleaf orchard test site
- Aerial application for production orchards with insecticide (Asana)
- Picked up F -250 from Greenbrier shop after they successfully repaired exhaust issues
- Top pruned 3 star loblolly pine seedlings
- Took Rome disc gang to machine shop

Forest Inventory and Analysis: AFC in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is responsible for collecting scientific data from permanently established plots located all over the state. The plots, each representing 5,937 acres, are strategically located on a three-mile by three-mile grid. The inventory plots have been generating data since they were established in the 1950's. Natural resource managers use the data to make management decisions and follow Arkansas' natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 90 plots for the month of August. We are now 52% complete with Inventory 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS

AFC Communications Update: August, 2018

Media Update

- Distributed to statewide media partners: "AAD Law Enforcement Division Helps Resolve Recent Property Theft and Arson," 8/13.
- Distributed to statewide media partners: "Forest Inventory and Analysis Report Provides Updated Arkansas Forest Data," 8/17.

Meetings and Events

- Attended Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force Meeting, 8/1.
- Attended and presented at the Arkansas Agriculture Department Quarterly Board Meeting, 8/1.
- Attended/presented at the Arkansas Forestry Commission Program Managers Meeting, 8/8.

General

- Helped to proofread 100+ pages of the Arkansas Forestry Commission turnover binder
- Organized all files on external drive for Communications Director/Marketing Director transition period, in September.
- Trained Leslie Foster on ordering all AFC Smokey Bear items, and AFC social media management.
- Provided various website updates to the AFC portion of the AAD website, alongside site-wide updates and edits.

August Social Media Update

- Arkansas Forestry Commission Feed
 - Facebook – 19,412 Likes (up from 19,350 Likes in July)
 - Twitter – 7,463 Followers (up from 7,446 Followers in July)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

August 2018

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(381,730.06)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(381,730.06)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(39,388.84)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(39,388.84)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(31,978.77)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(31,978.77)	
4042001000 FINES	(90.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(90.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)	
** OR - Rents	(700.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	(400.00)	Fire Show Donations
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(23,372.56)	Fire Equipment
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	(873.64)	WEX
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	Rebate
** OR - Miscellaneous	(24,646.20)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(2,000.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,064.25)	Lane
4048019000 RESALES	(30,928.65)	Trees of
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(33,992.90)	AR
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.28)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.28)	
4050001000 NONFED GRANTS/REIMB	0.00	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(11.73)	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(11.73)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(198,006.34)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(198,006.34)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,451.90	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	1,163.95	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	420.53	
** Treasury Charges	13,036.38	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,193,601.87	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	24,975.17	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,213.09	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	88,976.51	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,377.74	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	180,359.66	
** Salary Expense	1,612,364.04	
5020001000 Postage	784.82	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	11,693.71	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	20,743.19	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	3,011.42	

5020005000 Freight	125.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	31.96	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	36,390.10	
5030001000 Printing	0.00	
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	445.15	Business Cards; PSSF Permits
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	26.88	RICOH Printing
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	232.81	Overages
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	1,516.30	Carabineer Elite Key Tag
** Printing & Advertising	2,221.14	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	6,888.92	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	896.89	
5030005300 02 CHILLER MAINT	111.18	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	20,061.39	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	26,226.50	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	25,534.52	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	7,346.64	
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	545.87	
** Repairing & Servicing	87,611.91	
5040001000 Electricity	11,988.22	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	7,560.27	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,041.38	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	4,029.50	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	1,590.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,400.69	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	320.72	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	449.83	
** Utilities & Rent	29,380.61	
5050001000 02 Mileage	234.36	
5050003100 02 - Meals	773.09	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,677.31	
5050004100 09 - Meals	0.00	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	687.16	
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES	0.00	
TRAVEL	0.00	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	20.25	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	4,005.10	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	2,650.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
5050024000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	93.94	
** Travel & Subsistence	10,141.21	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	30,828.25	Western Pilot;
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	Stewardship
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	(3,704.14)	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	377.00	Shredding
** Professional Services & Fees	27,501.11	
5070001000 Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	

5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00	
5080001000 M&R Service Fees	21.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	(35.00)	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	0.00	
5080011000 02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER	0.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	921.96	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	0.00	
5080018000 Salv Demolish Remove	2,428.41	Stone County Work center
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	38.79	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	22.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	3,638.63	
** Other Expenses & Services	7,035.79	
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	219.38	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	470.31	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	11.43	
5090004000 Tires	18,303.57	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	36,766.73	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	21,244.14	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	16,364.14	
5090006000 Office Supplies	5,230.45	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	2,400.51	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090012000 Architect Draft Supp	87.47	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	62.75	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	387.30	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	9,404.33	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	338.11	
5090019000 Food Purchases	2,735.46	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	374.22	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,492.13	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	15,812.41	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	316.36	
5090026000 DP Supps	2,144.83	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	58.26	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	74,601.11	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	6,781.70	Computer; Heat Pump Condenser; 300 Gallon Sprayer
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	6,781.70	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	223,388.80	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	184,730.02	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	184,730.02	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	93.43	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	93.43	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	31,502.89	5 ATV's; Sales Tax on 3 Trucks
** Capital Outlay	31,502.89	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	112,937.28	
** Depreciation/Amortization	112,937.28	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	

** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00	
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	(1.10)	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	(2,908.65)	
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	(3,238.14)	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(655,000.00)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(46.50)	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	40,000.00	Funds Transferred to Paying fund - Agri Fund
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	652.85	
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	97,448.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(523,093.54)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
*** BALANCE	0.00	